

(d) if so, the amount of subsidy paid on cylinder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY) : (a) Currently, subsidy is being incurred on LPG (Domestic).

(b) to (d) the production cost of petroleum products cannot be identified separately since all the products are produced jointly. The Production cost for any company would include cost of crude oil, processing charges, marketing cost, filling charges, freight, distributors commission, taxes, other duties etc.

However, the oil companies are paid import parity price for LPG uplifted in bulk. The tariff adjusted imported parity refinery gate price for the month of July 2000 has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 14297.98MT.

The current subsidy on LPG (Domestic) cylinder is about Rs. 125 cylinder.

Applicants waiting for Domestic Gas Connections

91. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applicants waiting for getting domestic gas connections; and

(b) by when the Government would give them the gas connections as it is the basic need of a family?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) and (b) The total number of waiting list registered with LPG distributors of Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies as on 1.12.1999 is about 93 lakhs. Government have a plan to release 1 crore connections during the calendar year, 2000 which will liquidate this waiting list.

Increase in Deficit in the oil pool Account

92. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deficit in the oil pool account has increased considerably in recent months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the likely estimate of the deficit by the end of the current fiscal year;

(d) whether Government are contemplating any measures to reduce the deficit; and

(e) if so, the details of these measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The cumulative outstanding claims of oil companies from the Oil Pool Account stood at about Rs. 6000 crores as on 31.3.2000 (Provisional). Oil Pool Account gap depends upon various factors such as fluctuation in international prices of crude and controlled petroleum products fluctuation in foreign exchange rates, domestic prices of controlled petroleum products etc.

(d) and (e) With a view to contain the deficit in the oil pool account, the Government have taken a number of measures such as moving product prices towards import parity and gradual phasing out of subsidy on petroleum products.

Survey to assess the Natural Gas and Oil in Himachal Pradesh

†93. **SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey to assess the quantity of underground natural gas and oil in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith results;

(c) if not, whether any such survey is proposed to be conducted;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI E. PONNUSWAMY): (a) to (e) Exploration of hydrocarbons, *i.e.* crude oil and natural gas, is being carried out by Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) in the State of Himachal Pradesh since 1956. Based on the surveys, ten exploratory wells and five structural wells have been drilled. The exploratory efforts so far have yielded any commercial discovery of hydrocarbons.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.